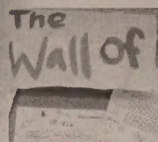


The Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969



Wall of Rejection

It comes around every year, and many flock around it to write encouraging messages. Learn more about its merits. [turn to page 4]



Senior Destinations

They've endured four years of high school — now find out where the class of 2012 is off to next year! [turn to pages 2 & 3]

Volume LIII Issue VI— May 22nd, 2012

Before you graduate from LHS, you should...

The editorial board of *The Musket* thought about what experiences every student at LHS should have before graduating. Here's the list we came up with — take a look and see how many you've already done and what you still have left to do!

People

1. hear one of Dean Lautman's jokes
2. have a conversation with Jim
3. talk politics with Sr. Nocito
4. meet the principal
5. take one of Ms. Carey's gym classes

Places

6. eat lunch in both of the Commons
7. stand in the senior corner of the Quad
8. go to Anna's Taqueria during your lunch/free block
9. discover where the tech room is
10. use a music practice room
11. write on the walls of Room 140
12. shout something in the center of the Quad to hear the echo

Academics

13. do an independent study
14. convince a teacher to have class outside
15. go to school without your bag/backpack
16. pay attention to homeroom announcements
17. eat your entire lunch during class
18. use an Activboard or Smartboard
19. attend a DSI show
20. order pizza to your English class
21. get locked out of your Aspen X2 account

Extracurriculars

22. attend a Senate meeting
23. attend an LHS sports game
24. attend a school dance
25. go to a performance in the Black Box Theatre
27. stay at school until after sunset
28. start your own club

Experiences

29. read *The Musket* front to back
30. publicly slip on the ice
31. log in to your FirstClass account
32. send or receive a Singing Valentine
33. put up a rejection letter on the Wall of Rejection
34. get candy from one of the secretaries
35. go all out on Spirit Week

Parent volunteers organize final party for class of 2012

■ **Susmita Gadre**
Layout Editor
Jamie Yang
Staff Writer

Pulling an all-nighter to study was so three months ago. For seniors, thoughts have turned to graduation and summer plans. But first, on June 3, members of the class of 2012 will congregate in the field house to enjoy their all-night graduation party, "Midnight Madness."

The party, organized by a committee of parents, runs from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following morning. As in previous years, the goal is to provide seniors with a safe venue to fully savor their last hours together as a high school class.

"The all-night party was like a last good-bye to the rest of my class," said Joseph Cho, an LHS graduate from the class of 2010. "Sure, you hang out with your group of friends over the summer, but it's not quite the same as the all-night party."

In order to keep the class of 2012 entertained throughout the night, dozens of parent volunteers sign up for shifts to check graduates in, serve food and help run games and events. Some of the many activities include a hypnotist, hair styling, karaoke and airbrush tattoos.

Andrea Pion, an LHS parent, is the current senior chairwoman and oversees the planning committees.

"We really look for donations and chaperones to make this [event] happen," she said. "There are about a

100 chaperones for the event itself, so it takes a lot of hands."

Joyce Dufault, one of the co-chairs of the Food Committee, emphasized the generosity of Lexington restaurants in providing food donations for the party.

"We go to the same 10 businesses in town every year, and we've built up a little bit of a relationship with them," she said. "When you go in they remember you from last year."

While the senior class council picked the theme "Midnight Madness," the parent committee designated people responsible for decorations, booking entertainment, the T-shirt designing contest and invitations.

Even after the night has passed, parents are not completely free from

the "Midnight Madness." Following the party, they will have a discussion about how to improve future graduation celebrations.

After months of planning, the organizers hope to bring the seniors a night of games, bonding and most importantly, a positive lasting memory of Lexington High School.

"We hope [the seniors] enjoy [the party] as much as we enjoy putting it together," added Pion, who is in her fifth year of volunteering at the event.

Seniors are just as excited about the event as the parent volunteers.

"It's just like having a closure on high school," said Laura Whiteley, a senior. "It's just a big party where we can all have fun one last time as a class."

Questions? Comments? E-mail us at musketnews@gmail.com



Abbas, Fatima	Connecticut College	Copeland-Clarke, Laura	University of New Hampshire	Gurley-Green, Adam	Case Western Reserve University
Abdu-Glass, Eliza	Endicott College	Corcoran, Emma	Brown University	Hamilton, Takara	Emmanuel College
Adley, Keaghan	University of Illinois	Cortez, Gabriela	Colby College	Han, Anthony	High Point University
Afridi, Ali	Middlesex Community College	Coste, Daniel	University of New Hampshire	Hancock, Siena	Mass College of Art and Design
Akhian, Chantal	Dean College	Costello, Catherine	Gap Year/University of Maine	Hao, Richard	Brandeis University
Alfred, Malik	Indiana University	Crampton, Mimi	University of Vermont	Hede-Brierley, Emma	Barnard College
Ali, Syed Asad	Simmons College	Crocker, Meghan	University of Maryland	Heingartner, Abigail	Brown University
Amos, Rachael	Bentley University	Cullen, James	University of Vermont	Heinrich, Katrina	New York University
Andriolo, Nicholas	Texas Christian University	Curley, Samuel	University of Illinois	Herbert, Alexander	Plymouth State University
Appelman, Christopher	MIT	Curran, Jake	Syracuse University	Heuchling, MayLin	George Washington University
Arbesfeld, Matthew	Framingham State University	Dahleh, Taher	New York University	Hewes, Selene	McGill University
Asta, Morgan	Mount Holyoke College	Darabant, Erin	University of Vermont	Higgins, Joseph	University of Vermont
Atia, Hanna	Oberlin College & Conservatory	Daugherty, Dawson		Hitchcock, Aubrey	UMass Amherst
Atwood, Stephanie	Middlesex Community College	Day, Elizabeth	Emory University	Hochman, Lillian	Occidental College/Columbia University
Azoff, Julian	Yale University	DeGrecio, Brian	Bentley University	Holtzclaw, Aara	Hampton University
Bader, Jonah	Boston University	DeGrecio, Danielle	St. Michael's College	Horn, Stephanie	Keene State College
Bagby, Timothy	UMass Amherst	DeGrecio, Katherine	St. Michael's College	Hong, Jessica	Indiana University
Balaban, David		Derkevorkian, Lilit	Simmons College	Horowitz, Alexandra	University of South Carolina
Balmer, John		DeSimone, Nicole	Simmons College	Hou, Yusheng	University of Illinois
Banerjee, Trijit	University of Texas	Desmond, Caroline	High Point University	Howry, Alexandra	Goucher College
Barner, Zhade	Long Island University	Deutsch, Melanie	Boston University	Hsieh, Kristin	Cornell University
Barnes, Michele	UMass Amherst	Devadas, Sheela	MIT	Hsu, Henry	Northeastern University
Barons, Christine	Belmont University	Dimas, Spero	UMass Boston	Hsu, Vicky	Boston University
Basch, Nathan	George Washington University	DiNapoli, Christina	Lehigh University	Hu, Annie Pan	Boston University
Batho, Michelle	Mass College of Art and Design	Douvas, Marissa	Hellenic College	Huang, Jason	University of Vermont
Beard, James	Bridgton Academy	Dubose, Bria	Lesley University	Hughes, Colleen	Boston College
Beato, Mariah	Pace University	Dumont, Sage	Connecticut College	Hurley, Noah	Catholic University of America
Beaulieu, Andrew	University of New Hampshire	Edelstein, Benjamin	Columbia University	Hwang, Heewon	Lehigh University
Beaulieu, Ronald	University of New Hampshire	Eichenberg, Zeidel	Tufts University	Indeck, Alexa	Simmons College
Beers, Ryan	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Emerhi, Christianna	Mass Bay Community College	Islam, Siffat	New York University
Belvin, Carina	Wellesley College	Enright, Alec	Stonehill College	Iverson, Megan	Boston University
Benayad-Cherif, Rami	UMass Amherst	Enright, Kyle	Stonehill College	Jackson, Lauren	Texas Christian University
Bennett, Jai Ric	University of Hartford	Eshraghian, Nasan	New England Culinary Institute	Jacob, Susan	Connecticut College
Bensassi, Sarah	Merrimack College	Estabrooks, Benjamin	United States Marines	Jain, Anubhav	MIT
Bergantino, Elizabeth	University of Wisconsin	Estrada, Rebekah	Salem State University	Jandl, Samantha	University of Southern California
Berman, Anna	University of Richmond	Ettlinger, Nicholas	Carnegie Mellon University	Jenness, Brendan	United States Navy
Berners-Lee, Ben	Gap Year/Northeastern University	Evans, Brian	Boston College	Jeong, Sung Woo	Gordon College
Bernitz, Sophia	Oberlin Conservatory of Music	Evans, Fiona	Colgate University	Jin, Brian	UMass Amherst
Blackington, Jordan	Avon Old Farms School	Fabricant, Taylor	University of New Hampshire	Johnson, Luke	Yale University
Bloomer, Conor	Boston College	Farkas, Kathryn	Champlain College	Joseph, Raina	
Bloomfield, Ross	Gap Year/Dean College	Feinberg, Emma	Point Park University	Jung, Steve	Mass College of Pharmacy and Health
Bodony, Rachel	George Washington University	Feldman, Sara	UMass Amherst	Kajko, Korey	Wilbraham & Monson Academy
Bokun, Abigail	DePaul University	Fernandes, Julia	Gap Year/University of Pittsburgh	Kan, Judith	University of Rochester
Boo, Hyun Yung	McGill University	Fernandes, Matthew	University of Rhode Island	Kane, Louisa	Gap Year/UC Santa Barbara
Borden, William	Merrimack College	Ferren, Michael	Middlesex Community College	Kannan, Varsha	Babson College
Boreiko, Alison	Gap Year/Tufts University	Fiore, Julia	Queen's University	Katz, Dawit	Middlesex Community College
Borjas, Rebecca	American University	Fitzgerald, Caroline	Bentley University	Kendall, Victoria	University of Vermont
Boudett, Shannon	Yale University	Foley, Emily	Hamilton College	Keohane, Hannah	Vassar College
Boutiba, Leith	UMass Amherst	Foley, Jack	American University	Kern, Anna	Wheelock College
Brackett, Victoria	Pennsylvania State University	Foley, Shane	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Kilburn, Devon	Skidmore College
Brandao, Isabella	Bunker Hill Community College	Forlenza, Allison	University of Notre Dame	Kim, Edward	UMass Lowell
Bristow, Jonathan	George Washington University	Forman, Catherine	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Kim, Jie	
Brosnan, Joshua	Middlebury College	Forstall, Adam	Georgia Institute of Technology	Kim, Maria	University of Maryland
Brown, Hannah	Utica College	Foss, Michelle	Middlesex Community College	Kimball, Sarah	Boston University
Buckley, Leah	Curry College	Foss, Nicole	Framingham State University	Kinard, Charlotte	High Point University
Bukys, Allison	Wash U in St. Louis	Foster, Sarah	Amherst College	Kishimoto, Jamie	Tufts University
Bunzick, Nicholas	University of Maine	Frank, Rachel	New York University	Kitayama, Kai	Gap Year
Burke, Kaitlyn	University of Vermont	Franks, Nicholas	UMass Amherst	Kolibas, Nick	Franklin and Marshall College
Burke, Patrick	Rochester Institute of Technology	Fraser, James	Gap Year	Kreider, Jake	Villanova University
Burns, Patrick	New York University	Fries, Grant	Suffolk University	Kridaratikorn, Amy	University of Texas
Callahan, Drew	Boston University	Fung, Jeremy	University of Southern California	Krupski, Alissa	Simmons College
Campbell, Taylor	Stonehill College	Gadre, Susmita	Boston University	Krupski, Rachel	Curry College
Carington, Sydney	North Carolina A&T State University	Galin, Rebecca	Barnard College/Jewish Theological Seminary	Kuida, Andrew	Brown University
Carpe, Dustin	Minuteman Technical Institute	Galvan, Fer	Middlesex Community College	Kullberg, Caitlin	Connecticut College
Chaffee, Marissa	University of Connecticut	Gambino, Stefano	Emmanuel College	Kuzovkin, Igor	New York University
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Chang, Carolyn	MIT	George, Kyle	Emerson College	Lakin, Kara	Johnson & Wales University
Chang, Hweedo	University of Toronto	George, Vassilis	Johnson & Wales University	Lamb, Andrew	Stanford University
Chang, Jae Ho	Duke University	Gilbert, Joshua	New England Conservatory	Lau, Allison	George Washington University
Charlton, Emily	Fairfield University	Gleyzer, Daniel	Berklee School of Music	Laurenzi, Erica	Quinnipiac University
Chen, Brittany	Carnegie Mellon University	Godwin, Danny	Berklee College of Music	Lee, Christopher	Bridgton Academy
Cherayil, Maya	Tufts University	Goodman, Juliet	Wash U in St. Louis	Lee, Daniel	UMass Boston
Chipashvili, Otari	UMass Amherst	Goplerud, Elise	Gap Year/University of Maine	Lehman, William	Johnson & Wales University
Choi, Elaine	New York University	Goulet, Andrew	Middlebury College	Lenderking-Brill, Caleb	University of Vermont
Chomitz, Benjamin	University of Vermont	Grady, Jenna	UMass Amherst	Leung, Christine	Carnegie Mellon University
Chomitz, Nancy	UMass Amherst	Gregg, Chandler	Northwestern University	Leung, Derek	Carnegie Mellon University
Chung, Samantha	Johnson & Wales University	Griffin, Courtney	University of Delaware	Leung, Julia	Brown University
Claflin, Gwendolyn	Earlham College	Griner, Marina	McGill University	Levenson, Jess	Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Clifford, Bennett	Wake Forest University	Grueter, Michael	Gap Year/Culinary Institute of America	Levin, Isaac	New England Conservatory
Cohen, Ziv	UMass Amherst	Gschwend, Matthew	Harvard University	Lewis, Gavin	Villanova University
Cohn, Charlotte	University of Vermont	Guerra, Jillian	Curry College	Li, Jason	Carnegie Mellon University
Collazzo, Leyla	Santa Clara University	Gunther, Maximilian		Li, Joy	Northeastern University
Coolidge, Noah	Brandeis University	Guo, Dena	Northeastern University	Li, Kathleen	Tufts University

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE MUSKET

3

Li, Mina	UC Berkeley	Peallat, Romain	University of Montreal	Therieuau, Mitchell	Tulane University
Liebeskind, Debra	University of Vermont	Peng, Yuan	New England Conservatory Prep School	Thornton Jr., Reginald	Middlesex Community College
Liu, Jenny	Wash U in St. Louis	Penniman, George		Tiani, Christopher	UMass Lowell
Liu, Vinson	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Penniman, Myles	UMass Dartmouth	Tiani, Elise	Oberlin College
Liveh, Danielle	Gap Year/University of Michigan	Pickar, Joshua	George Washington University	Tiani, Kendra	UMass Amherst
Lockwood, Sarah	Scripps College	Pickering, Patrick	College of Wooster	Tidor, Benjamin	MIT
Longo, Katherine	SUNY Binghamton	Pierre Louis, Roldyne		Tippett, Alison	Smith College
Loughlin, Michael	Harvard University	Pietri, Jessica	SUNY Albany	Traganos, Alexandra	University of New Hampshire
Lu, Andrew	Bentley University	Pilch, Christopher	Gap Year	Trappiel, Zachary	Universal Technical Institute
Lung, Christine	Wash U in St. Louis	Pimentel, Michael	Merrimack College	Tringale, Daniel	Quinnipiac University
Luo, Douglass	McGill University	Pinkus, Lyn	Colorado School of Mines	Troll, Jo	University College London
Ma, Cody	Brown University	Pion, Alexis	University of Arizona	Trowbridge, Jennifer	
Ma, Mitchell	SUNY Albany	Pirooz, Kianna	Boston University	Tso, Emily	Cornell University
Mace, Jonathan	University of Colorado	Plevinsky, Scott	University of Vermont	Tumennasan, Nominerdene	University of Michigan
Maeda, Rie	Elon University	Plasch, Aaron	Boston University	Turk, Kelly	Gordon College
Mael, Liora	Oberlin College	Pompeo, Leigh	Bridgewater State University	Tzannes, Jason	Cushing Academy
Maher, Nicole	Northeastern University	Pronchick, Mark	Colgate University	Van Arsdell, Skyler	High Point University
Mak, Alex	Mass College of Pharmacy and Health	Pryor, Jesse	Auburn University	Van Mierlo, Martin	Tufts University
Malin, Ralph	Trinity College	Ramakrishna, Ramya	Brandeis University	Varallo, Danielle	Boston University
Maradianos, Irini	Merrimack College	Ramli, Stacy	University of Michigan	Vendetti, Cody	
Martell, Natalie	Kalamazoo College	Rangan, Mallika	Brandeis University	Von Rickenbach, Tomas	
Martin, Joseph	Work	Ransohoff, Lauren	Cornell University	Voss, Annika	Skidmore College
Martinez, Aitana	Pratt Institute	Reece, Leah	Elon University	Wada-Gill, Bronwyn	Boston University
Masson, Michela	George Washington University	Reibstein, Rebecca	Smith College	Wagner, Rachel	East Carolina University
Mattingly, Lavi	University of Miami	Ren, Tianfu		Walker, Emily	Colby College
McCarthy, Shannon	Colorado College	Riley, Emma	High Point University	Walsh, Nicole	College of William and Mary
McCavana, Moira	Harvard University	Riley, Garfield	Art Institute of Boston	Wan, Christopher	Quinnipiac University
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McKenna, Kayla		Rowe, Connor	Fisher College	Waters, Tobin	University of Vermont
Meadow, Gabriel		Rubenstein, Shayna	Brandeis University	Watterson, Amelia	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Mechling, Emma	Oberlin College	Rue, Ashton	UMass Lowell	Weinronk, Tova	UMass Amherst
Medlock, Catherine	MIT	Rush, Taylor	UMass Dartmouth	Weisberg, Lisa	Bentley University
Meeks, Taylor	Middlesex Community College	Russo, Alicia	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	Wen, Kevin	MIT
Mehta, Nandini	Northwestern University	Sabin, Zachary	Johns Hopkins University	Wendel, Olivia	New York University
Meyers, Sophie	Bowdoin College	Sahi, Adveep	Georgia Institute of Technology	Wessells, Tyler	
Michon, Corey	Williams College	Salem, Freydon	UMass Amherst	White, Kathryn	Syracuse University
Milendorf, Maria	Worcester State College	Salusti, Alaina	University of Maryland	Whiteley, Adam	University of Pittsburgh
Miller, Zoe	University of Michigan	Sanaye, Ava	Tufts University	Whiteley, Laura	Rutgers University
Millon, Nicholas	Wheaton College (MA)	Sandeen, Arianna	Gettysburg College	Williams, Brittany	University of Hartford
Mock, Timothy	Boston University	Schaffner, Thomas	Tufts University	Willinger, Sophia	Champlain College
Mojahed, Diana	Tufts University	Schlusser, Daniel	Columbia University	Wilson, Emily	Bentley University
Moon, Jake	Gordon College	Schultz, Asia	Gap Year/Arizona State University	Winton, Derek	Elon University
Morales, Dominique	American International College	Schultz, Cullen	High Point University	Wiryaman, Stephanie	McGill University
Morelus, Princelee	Lasell College	Schwartz, Matthew	New York University	Wisdom, Christopher	Framingham State University
Morelus, Princeton	Jireh Prep	Seale, Joel		Wolff, Matthaues	UMass Amherst
Morrill, Valerie	Emory University	Seidel, Isaac	Gap Year/UMass Amherst	Wong Labow, Kenneth	Loyola University
Morrison, Samuel	Ursinus College	Sen, Pathik	University of Toronto	Wood, Zoe	Columbia University
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Nag, Sushawn	Wash U in St. Louis	Silliman, Jussi	Gap Year/Tufts University	Yao, Jian Qiang	Brandeis University
Nam, Esther	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Simon, Miriam	Maryland Institute College of Art	Yared, Alexander	Tufts University
Ndagire, Afrah		Sivapurapu, Sridhar	Georgia Institute of Technology	Yates, Lauren	Rice University
Neumann, Caroline	Occidental College	Slone, Evan	Rochester Institute of Technology	Yeaw, Coleman	Rochester Institute of Technology
Nichols, Emma	Vassar College	Smith, Andrew	Boston University	Yin, Alex	University of Michigan
Northrup, Samantha	Framingham State University	Smith, Chelsey	Barry University	Yoon, Sarah	UMass Amherst
O'Connell, Aidan	University of Hartford	Smoot, Matthew	Emory University	Yoskowitz, Joshua	Union College
O'Connor, Lucas	UMass Amherst	Snyder, Daniel	UMass Lowell	Yost, Stephanie	University of Delaware
O'Donoghue, Forest	Rhode Island School of Design	Soule, Abigail	Tulane University	Young, Keith	New England College
O'Keefe, Christopher	Salve Regina University	Srour, John	UMass Boston	Zanin, Connor	University of Delaware
O'Neil, Stephen	Union College	Star, Noah	Northwestern University	Zhang, Amy	MIT
Okundaye, Muyi	University of Arkansas	Stebbins, Raymond	University of Vermont	Zhang, Sijia	Carnegie Mellon University
Oliveira Soens, Alice	Georgetown University	Stein, Alison	Harvard University	Zhu, Edward	Ohio State University
Oliveira Soens, Richard	Georgetown University	Stern, Bronwen	Springfield College	Zhu, Timothy	Ohio State University
Oram, Jacqueline	College of New Jersey	Stevens, Hafsatu	Western Connecticut State University	Zitkovsky, Helen	Princeton University
Orchanian, Arie	Boston University	Stevens, Michelle	Work	Zola, Rebecca	The New School
Ornatowski, Hannah	Vassar College	Stokes, Margo	Cornell University		
Oye, Kyle	Occidental College	Stone, Rachel	Clark University		
Palafox, Shelby	Gordon College	Sujanani, Rahul	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute		
Palfreman, Matthew	University of Oregon	Sung, Thawm	Middlesex Community College		
Pan, Ariel	Framingham State University	Sutherland, Jarianna			
Pandit, Anika	Villanova University	Swanson, Andrew	Gordon College		
Papatsoris, Zak	Minuteman Technical Institute	Swanson, Krista	University of Rhode Island		
Papp, Anna	Harvard University	Tabaczynski, Jennifer	Boston University		
Park, Kevin	UC Los Angeles	Tan, Kevin	Ohio State Univrsity		
Parrish, James	University of New Hampshire	Tang, Shen	Tufts University		
Patch, Casey	Boston College	Tashjian, Teni	Wentworth Institute of Technology		
Pathan, Samir	University of Rhode Island	Tate, Claudia	Tulane University		
Paulson, Jacob	University of Rochester	Tendo, Keeya	Curry College		

Class of 2012 Top Eleven Destinations

UMass Amherst	21
Boston University	19
Gap Year	15
University of Vermont	14
Tufts University	12
Middlesex Community College	9
New York University	9
MIT	8
Bentley/George Washington/UNH	7

Wall of Rejection unifies seniors

■ Noah Star
Opinion Editor

For most, March Madness is the frenetic college basketball tournament that captivates fans of the sport. For high school seniors, March Madness is a whole other level of insanity.

March is the month of college decisions — the month when everyone fears the ominous rejection letter. But despite the conventional belief that rejection is holistically malevolent, the thin envelope (or short email, as it were) has at least one positive result — the Wall of Rejection.

Everyone gets rejected, whether from a dream, match or safety school; all high school seniors experience the perils of rejection. And to be blunt, it sucks.

There is no way around it. Years of hard work and preparation go into a college application, and finding out that the effort was unsuccessful is a huge disappointment. Yet, since that feeling is near universal at this time of year, at LHS we have developed a great coping mechanism.

The Wall of Rejection gives seniors the opportunity to see that their hopes and dreams don't end with rejection. Instead, as a class, seniors rally together in their sadness. This sense of camaraderie is important. It shows everyone that despite the impersonal brutality of college rejections, people are still caring and appreciative.

The college process can make students feel worthless because they fail to fit some formula for acceptance. But the Wall of Rejection reminds everyone that their high school career was not wasted. The Wall is microcosmic of the indelible relationships created

during high school; those friendships are just as important as one's academic destination in the fall of 2012.

The fact that this type of support exists at a high school as competitive as LHS is remarkable. Putting aside the fact that many students are vying for the same spots in selective colleges and universities, people are able to empathize and commiserate. Even those who are admitted to their dream school can share in the disappointment of their peers and participate in the Wall.

Some might say that the Wall is contrived, or that people end up feeling worse about their rejection due to its publicity. Whether praise is artificial or organic is irrelevant. It is still heartwarming for the receiver to know that their peers care.

The insults targeted at the rejecting institution and the empty, generic compliments inevitably found in such letters can be extremely uplifting, especially when juxtaposed with the harshness of rejection. If contrived praise didn't have a positive impact, then no one would buy Hallmark cards. Simply put, praise just feels good no matter what.

As a high school senior, there is little worse than the feeling of rejection. Moreover, no one uses the Wall to fuel the rumor mill because people understand the gravity of college decisions. Everyone knows that they could experience the same pitfalls of denial.

Ultimately, the college process is a craphoot (with emphasis on the crap). However, the camaraderie of the senior class coming together each March ameliorates the rejection at least to some extent and reaffirms the compassion and understanding of Lexington students.

IN 50 YEARS...



"WORD."

Comic by Andrew Goulet

Letter to the Editor: National Honor Society

"NHS is Not Serving the Lexington Community" (May 2012) paints an unfair picture of the National Honor Society at LHS because it fails to fully acknowledge the value of having a dedicated group of responsible volunteers within the Lexington community.

While the National Honor Society is an exclusive society in that it requires all members to uphold their academic standing and demonstrate a high level of civic engagement, the benefits of having such a society cannot be denied. There are currently 261 members of the National Honor Society. We are by far the largest student organization at LHS. Since each member is required to perform 20 hours of community service per year, NHS serves the community in excess of 5,200 hours per year. Leslie Hansen, of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony (a beneficiary of NHS work), wrote earlier this year about NHS [students] that, "they were polite, efficient and friendly... a wonderful resource to the Lexington community." Ms. Hansen is not alone in her gratitude; countless other community leaders have praised the dedicated work of NHS volunteers.

We would like to acknowledge, however, that Mr. Harvey raises a number of important issues in his well-crafted article. The NHS admissions process — much akin to the college admissions process — is far from perfect. While we only have limited space in the organization, in future years we will continue to work on improving the admissions process and use a more holistic approach to choosing members.

The countless hours of community service each member performs go towards helping organizations such as the Lexington Food Pantry, the Lexington Red Cross Blood Drives and to the Cary Library in their annual fundraising efforts. By providing this reliable and hard-working group of students to countless organizations in the Greater-Boston area, The National Honor Society undoubtedly plays a valuable role in serving our community.

Emma Hede-Brierley, president of National Honor Society

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2011 - 2012

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